

THE
PLEASANT
CONCEITES

OF

Old *Hobson* the merry Londoner,
full of humorous discourses,
and witty meriments.

Whereat the quickest wittes may laugh, and the
Wiser sort take pleasure.



W. L. *Chapman*
Printed at London for *John Wright*, and are to bee sold at
his shoppe neere Christ-Church gate.

1607

THE PLEASANT CONCEITS

OF

Old Hobson the merry Londoner,
Full of humorous conceits,
and witty inventions.

As he is the only one in the world
who can do this.



Printed in London for John Wright, and are to be sold at
his shop near Chancery Lane.

1603.



TO THE RIGHT

Worshippfull, Sir WILLIAM

STONE Knight, Mercer to the Queenes
Most excellent Maiesty.

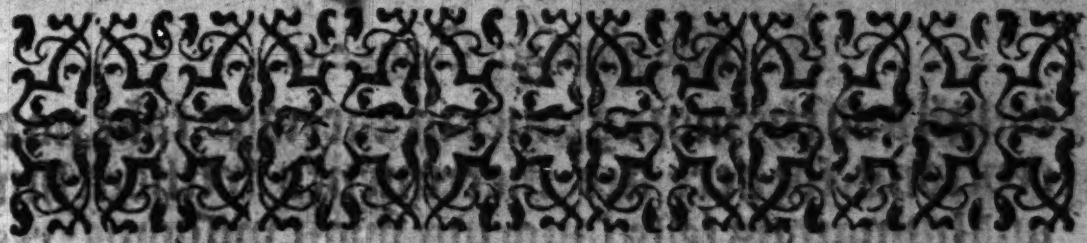


Our Friendly disposition (Right wor-
shipfull) giuing grace to well meaning
minds, hath imboldned me amoungst
others, to testifie that good will in out-
ward shew, which my heart of long
time, hath secretly bore to your wor-
ship, and now taking oportu nity I present to your fa-
uorable censure, this small booke, contayning many
quick flashes of the witty Iests of old *Hobson* the merry
Londoner, lately a cittizen of good estimation, and I
thinke not altogether forgotten of your worship : Re-
ceauce this little treatise (I, beseeche you) with fauour
answerable to my good will, and as your leasure shall
serue, bestow now and then a little reading therefore,
which if it please you to doe, I doubt not but you will
like well of the labour, and besides the honest recreati-


THE EPISTLE.

on which it affordeth, apply what your worship maketh
choyce of, vnto your priuate pleasure, and thus wishing
your prosperity, acceptance to this my guilt, and
a good opinion of the giuer I conclude,
hoping that my honest wish,
shall not be voyd of a
happy successe.

Your Worships, most humble to com-
mand RICHARD LOWNSON.


The pleasant life, of old Hobson the
merry Londoner, full of humorous discourses, and
witty merriments, whereat the quickest wits
may laugh and the wiser sort take pleasure

I Master Hobsons discription

 In the beginning of Queene Elizabeths most happy raigne, our late deceased Soueraigne, vnder whose peacefull gouernment, long flourished this our Countrey of England: There liued in the Citty of London a merry Cittizen named old Hobson, a haberdasher of smale wares, dwelling at the lower end of cheaphide, in the Poultry: as well knowne thorough this parte of England, as a Sargeant knows the Counter-gate, he was a homely plaine man, most commonly wearing a buttond cap close to his eares, a short gowne girt hard about his middle and a paire of slippers vpon his feete of an ancient fashion, as for his wealth, it was answerable to the better sort of our Cittizens, but of so merry a disposition, that his equal therein is hardly to be found: hereat let the pleasant disposed people laugh,

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laugh and the more grauer in carriage take no exceptions, for here are merriments without hurt, and humorous tests sauring vpon wisdom: read willingly, but scoffe not spitefully, for old Hobson spent his dayes merrily.

2 Of master Hobsons Proverbs.



Of many yeares since: there was Sir Iohn Baynes, (by the common voyce of the Citty,) chosen Shrieve of London, which man in former times had beene master Hobsons Prentice, and riding alonge the streete with other Aldermen about the Citty businesse, was saluted by Master Hobson in this manner, Wones a God man, what a cork-horse knave, and thy master a foote, heres the world turnd upside downe: Sir Iohn Baynes hearing this his Masters merry salutation, passed along with a pleasant smile, makinge no answer at all. Upon slight regard, Master Hobson tooke occasion to say as followeth, heres pride rydes on horse-backe whilste humilitie goes a foote: in speakinge these words, came foure other Aldermen ridinge after Master Shreife whose names were these: Alderman Ramsey, Alderman Bond, Alderman Beecher, and Alderman Cooper, at whose passage by, he made this pleasant rime.

1 Ramsey the rich,
2 Bond the stout.

3 Beecher the gentle-man,
4 and Cooper the loute.

of Ould Hobson.

This pleasant rime so sodaynely spoken by Master Hobson, is to this day accounted for his Proverbe in London

3 Of Master Hobson and Iohn Tawnycore.



After Hobson being a haberdasher of small wares (as I sayd before) & his shoppe on a time full of customers, his negligent Prentises, carelesly credited a Kentish pedler with ten pounds of commodities, neither knowing his name nor his dwelling place, which over sight, when maister Hobson vnderstood, and noting the simplicity of his seruantes, and their forgetfulness, demanded what apparrell the pedler had on: mary Sir (quoth one of the prentises) he had on a Tawnycore, Then (quoth Maister Hobson) put downe Iohn tawny cote and so was the pedler, by the name of Iohn tawny cote, entered to the booke, about a month after the same pedler, came againe to London to buy ware, and comming to maister Hobson in a russet cote willed him to turne ouer his booke for ten poundes that one Iohn Rowlands owed him. Ten poundes, (quoth Maister Hobson) that Iohn Rowlands oweth me, I remember no such man, bones of God knaue, thou owest mee none, but I doe saith the pedler: where vpon the booke was serched, but no Iohn Rowlands was to be found, I thinke thou art mad quoth Hobson, for thou owest me nothing, but I doe quoth the Pedler, and will pay it. Being in this

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At first a long time one of his seruants said, that hee had found in the booke such a debte by one Iohn tawny core that is my selfe replied the Pedler, I was then Iohn tawny core, though I am now Iohn Kisset core, so paid hee the ten pounds by the same name to Maister Hobson, and receiued twenty more vpon his owne word and name of Iohn Rowland, the which twenty pound, hee shortly after paid for suertyshippe and so by this his ouer kind heart, paying other mens debtes, hee grew so poore, and into such necessity, that he was forced to maintaine his liuing by hedging and ditching and other such like country labours, within a while after this, Maister Hobson coming into kent, to seeke by some desperate debts, came to Dartford, where finding this poore man ditching for a groat a day, in pittie of him said how now Iohn tawny core, bones a God man, thou canst neuer pay me with this poore labour, come home knaue, come home I will trust thee with twenty pound more, follow thy old trade of pedling again & one day thou maist pay me all. Thus the pedler had a new credit of Maister Hobson, by which good meanes he grew rich, that in time he bought his freedome of London, and therein grew so wealthy a Cittisen, that he became one of the maisters of the Hospitall and when he died he proued a good benefactor to the same house.



How Maister Hobson made a light banquet
for his company.



Vpon a time Maister Hobson
inuitd very solemnly & whol
liuery of his company to a
light banquet, and for the
same prouided the greatest
tauerne in all London in a re-
dines: the appoynted houre
being come, the Cittizens repaired thether, richly
attired, the better to grace Maister Hobsons ban-
quet: but expecting great cheare, and good in-
tertainement, they were all vtterly disapoynt-
ed, for what found they there thinke you?
nothing on my word, but each one a cup of
wine and a manchet of bread on his trencher
& some fine hundred candles lighted about the
Roome, which in my mind was a very light
banquet both for the belly and for the eye. By
this merry Jest, hee gained such loue of his
companie, that hee borrowed Gratis out of
the hall a hundred and fiftie pound for two
yeares.

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How maister Hobson chauk'd his prentises the way to the Church.



Furthermore when Maister Hobson had any buisness abroad, his prentises wold ether bee at the tauerne, filling there heads with wine, or at the dagger in cheape, side cramming their bellies with minced pyes, but aboue al other times, it was their common colfome (as London prentises be) to follow their maisters vpon sundays to the Church doze) and then to leaue them and hie vnto the tauerne, which Maister Hobson on a time, perceiuing one of his men so to doe, demanded at his comming home, what the Preachers text was: Sir (quoth the fellow) I was not at the beginning, what was in the middle (quoth Maister Hobson) Sir (qd. the fellow) then was I a sleepe: (said Maister Hobson againe) what was then the conclusion? then Replied his seruant, I was come fir a way before the end: by which meanes he knew well he was not there, but rather in some tipling house, offending Gods maiesty and the lawes of the land. Therefore the next Sunday morning after, maister Hobson called all his seruants together, and in the sight of many of his neighbors and their prentises,ooke apeece of chaunce, & chaukd them all the way along to the Church directly, which pro-
ued

Ofould Hobson.

ued a great shame to his owne servants, but a good example to all others of like condition, after this was there neuer the like misdemeanour vied amongst them.

6. How Maister Hobson hung out a lanterne and candle light.



In the beginning of Queene Elizabeths raigne, when the order of hanging out lanterne and candlelight first of all was brought vp: the beuell of the warde where Maister Hobson dwelt, in a darke euening crieng bp and downe, hang out your lantornes, hang out your lantornes: vling no other words: wheredpon Maister Hobson tooke an empty lantorne, and according to the beadles call hung it out. This flout by the Lord Maior was taken in ill part, and for the same offence was sent to the counter: but being released, the next night following, the beadle thinking to amend his call: cried with a loud voise hang out your lantorne and candle. maister Hobson here-vpon hung out a lantorne and candle vnlit, as the beadle againe commanded, where vpon he was sent againe to the counter: but the next night the beadle being better aduised, cryed, hang out your lantorne and candlelight, hang out your lantorne and candlelight.

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candle light, which maister Hobson at last did
to his great commendations which cry of lan-
thorne and candlight is in right manner bled to
this day.

How Maister Hobson bayted the
Diuell with a dog.



At farre from maister Hobsons
house, there dwelled one of the
cunning men, other wise called
fortune tellers, such cossoning
companions, as at this day,
(by their crafts) make simple
women beleue, how they can tell what hus-
bands they shall haue, how many children, how
many sweet harts, and such like: if goods bee
stole who hath them, with promise to helpe
them to their losses againe: with many other
like deceiptfull elusions. To this wise man as
some termes him) goes maister Hobson, not to
reap any benefit by his crafty cunning, but to
make a Jest and tryall of his experience, so cau-
sing one of his seruants to lead a mastie dog after
him, staying at the cunning mans doore with the
dog in his hand by goes maister Hobson to y^e wise
man, requesting his skil, for he had lost ten pound
lately taken from him by theeuers, but when
and how he knewe not well the cunning man
knowing maister Hobson to be one of his neigh-
bors,

Of ould Hobson.

boys, and a man of a good reputation, fell (as he made shewe) to conitring and casting of figures, and after a few words of incantation. as his common vse was. he took a very large faire looking glasse, and bad Maister Hobson to looke in the same, but not to cast his eyes backward in any case; the which hee did, and therein saw the picture of a huge and large ore with two broad hornes on his head, the which was no other wise, (but as hee had often Deceitfully shewed to others a cossoning fellow like the cunning man himselte, clothed in an ore hide, which fellow he maintained as his servant to blinde the peoples eyes withall, and to make them beleue hee could shew them the Diuill at his pleasure in a glasse: this vision maister Hobson perceiving, & getting at the knauery thereof, gaue a whistle for his dog which then staid below at the doore in his mans keeping, which whistle being no sooner hard but the dog ran by flayers to his maister as he had beene mad and presently fastned vpon the poore fellow in the ore hide, and so tore him as it was pittifull to see: the cunning man cried for the passion of God take off your dog. ne (quoth Maister Hobson) let the Diuill and the dogge fight, venture thou thy deuill and I will venture my dog. To conclude the ore hide was torne from the fellows backe and so their knaucryes were discovered, and their cunning wits layd open to the world.

How

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8 How Maister Hobson allowed his
wife two men to waight on
her to the market.



AS Ma. Hobson increased in riches, so increased his wife in pride, in such sort that she would seldom goe out of doores without her man before her, vpon a time hauing buisnes to cheapside market amongst many other of her neighbors, the more to shew her haughty stomack, desired of her husband that she might haue her man to attend her: who seeing her disposition, willingly consented thereunto: and therevpon called two of his lustiest men, put them in armor with two browne bills on their necks, placing one of them before her, the other after, and so proffered to send her forth to market, she in a nicenes, tooke such displeasure hereatt that for a month after she lay sicke in her bed, and would eate nothing but candles made of muscadine.

9 Of an epitaph that Maister Hobson
made for a dead man.



Here was a very Rich Citty-
zen (dwelling not far from
London bridge) whom in his
life time was neuer knowne
to doe any deed worthy of
memozie: who dying, left
Maister Hobson his onely ex-
ecutor, to dispose of his goods as also to lay up-
on his graue a faire marble stone, and as upon
marble stones there bee commonly ingrauen
certaine verses in the maner of an epitaph of the
mans conuertation there vnder buried, so Mai-
ster Hobson considered, what epitaph he would
set upon his friends graue, knowing the few
good deeds he did in his life time, chaused these
two verses following to be ingrauen vpon the
marble stone.

Epitaph.

He was begotten borne, and cryed,
He liued long time, fell Sicke, and died.

The pleasant Conceits



8 How Maister Hobson allowed his wife two men to waight on her to the market.



AS Maister Hobson increased in riches, so increased his wife in pride, in such sort that she would seldom goe out of doores without her man before her, vpon a time ha-
ving buisnes to cheapside mar-
ket amongst many other of her neighbors, the more to shew her haughty stomack, desired of her husband that she might haue her man to attend her: who seeing her disposition, willingly consented thereto: and therevpon called two of his lustiest men, put them in armor with two browne bills on their necks, placing one of them before her, the other after, and so proffered to send her forth to market. she in a nicenes, tooke such displeasure hereatt that for a mounth after she lay sicke in her bed, and would eat nothing but caudles made of muskadine.

9 Of an epitaph that Maister Hobson
made for a dead man.

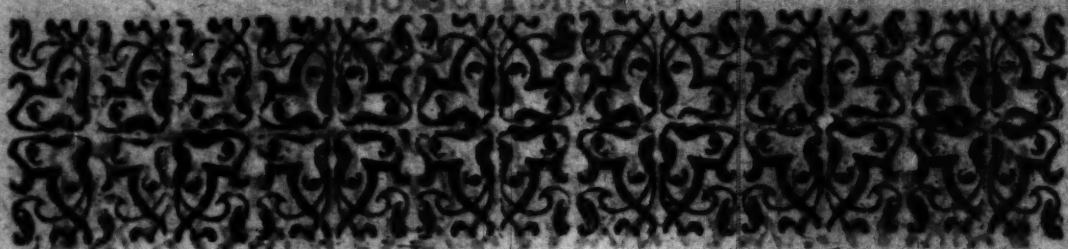


There was a very Rich Cittizen (dwelling not far from London bridge) whom in his life time was neuer knowne to doe any deed worthy of memorie: who dying, left Maister Hobson his onely executor. to dispose of his goods as also to lay upon his grave a faire marble stone, and as upon marble stones there bee commonly ingraven certaine verses in the maner of an epitaph of the mans conversation there vnder buried, so Maister Hobson considered, what epitaph he would set upon his friends grave: knowing the few good deeds he did in his life time, chaused these two verses following to be ingraven upon the marble stone.

Epitaph.

He was begotten borne, and cryed,
He liued long time, fell Sicke, and died.

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How Master Hobson proued
himselfe a Poet.



Master Hobson hauing occasion to
ride into the wild of Kent. where
in that age Scollers were very
scarce, during the time of his
taryng there, there hapned to be
buried one Iohn Medcause a very
sufficient farmer, vpon whose grave was writ-
ten these verses following in faire Romaine
letters:

I desire yee in the Lords behalfe,
To pray for the soule of poore Iohn Cause.

Master Hobson noting the simplicity of the ver-
ses writt underneath as followeth.

O thou death more fittell then a foxe,
Thou mightst a let this cause liued to be an oxe,
To haue, eat, graffe, hay and corne,
And like his Sire to haue wore a home.

Ofould Hobson

How Maister Hobson found his factor
in France with a French curtizan



Maister Hobson hauing in France
a factor which dealt for him in
marchandise, and lacking diuers
sorts of wares, to furnish his
chapmen for Bristowe faire, sent
to his a soze said factor (being a
mery conceited youth) for certaine matches of
such commodities as were then most in request:
he mistaking his maisters meaning, sent him al
the matches, vsed for gun-powder that could be
bought in France, to the valew of two thousand
poundes worth, Maister Hobson receauing them,
and seing himselfe matcht with a commoditie
of matches, thought all was not well in France,
and that his man neglected his busines there.
To know the truth thereof, the next morning
very early, not revealing it to his wife, in a
night gowne, a buttoned cap, and in a payre of
slippers: tooke shipping at billingsgate, and so
passed ouer into France, where after some inqui-
ry made, of his mans life and conversation he
found him in a lewd house, reueling with a most
gallant french curtizan, whome Maister Hob-
son after a smile or two saluted in this manner
what now knaue: what a wenching knaue:
at rack and manger knaue: bones of me cannot
a match and a way serue your turne knaue: is
this

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this the french wares you deale withall knaue:
his man seeing him selfe so taken napping. for a
time stood amazed, not knowing what to say,
but recouering his senses, he saue his maister
this pleasant answere though Sir this ware is
a broken commodity yet may we deale with
them, being dealers with all wares or rather
haberdashers of small wares, which is sildome
lied of french gentlewoman: Maister Hobson
at this pleasant answere could not choose but
pardon him, and so came they both ouer into
England, where now this rack and a manger is
growne to a prouerbe.

12. How Maister Hobson got a parrant
for the sale of his Matches.



He commo^{ity} of matches which
his factor sent him from France,
being slow of sale, considering the
little vse for them being a time of
peace, like a witty Cittizen, Mai-
ster Hobson bies himselfe to court
to the Queene Elizabeth for then she reigned,
and hauing a parrant ready made for the sale of
the aforesaid matches, where so soone as hee
came into the Queenes presence, hee kneeled
downe, and desired her grace to giue an assigne-
ment to his parrant declaring what it was, and
a great losse he was like to sustaine by that com-
modity.

modify, the Queene perceauing for what intent
 he came, and considering the great benefit that
 would come by such a grant, & meaning to giue
 it to some gentleman nere vnto hir, as a recom-
 pence for his service, said vnto Maister Hobson,
 my friend (said the Queene,) bee content for
 thou shalt not haue thy patent sealed, nor will
 I giue thee thy request. Maister Hobson hearing
 the Queenes denial said, I most hartely thanke
 your maiesty, both I and all mine, are bound to
 thanke and pray for your highnes: and so ma-
 king lowe obeysance, went his way: at these his
 words, the Queene much maruailed, and when
 he had gone a litle from her, she caused him to be
 sent for backe againe, whome when he was re-
 turned the Queene asked, if he did well vnder-
 stand what answer her grace did giue him, yes
 truly saide Maister Hobson, what said I (quoth
 the Queene:) marry your grace had me be con-
 tent for I should not haue my desire, nor my pat-
 tent sealed, why did you then (qd. the Queene)
 giue me such great thanks? because (said Mai-
 ster Hobson) your grace gaue mee so soone an an-
 swere without either longer suite, or losse of time,
 the which would haue bene to my very much
 harme and great hinderance, for I haue at home
 a mighty charge of househould, to which I am
 bound in duety to looke diligently, and to main-
 taine carefully. The Queene marking well the
 wisdom and discreet answer of Maister Hobson,

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and now concealing a new fauour to wards him, sayd, now shall you giue me twice thanks, for you shall haue your pattennt sealed, and your desires performed that you sue for. So casting her eyes vpon the Lord chancelour commanded the same by him to be done, which was accomplished with all speede, whereby in short time, hee had quicke sale of his commodity of matches to his hearts content, and his welthes great encrease.

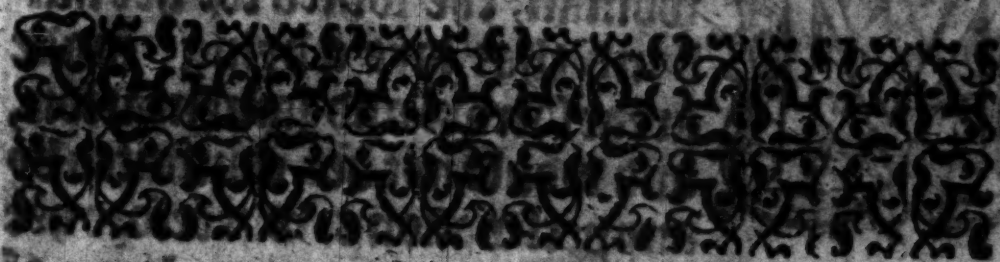
Master Hobsons Iell of ringing of bells
vpon the Queenes day.



Vpon Saint Hewes day being the seuententh of Nouember vpon which day the triumph was holden for Queene Elizabeths happy gouernēt, as bonfiers ringing of bells & such like, but in the Parish where Maister Hobso dwelled he being Churchwarden was no ringing at all, by reason the steeple was a mending and the bells downe, and being asked by a seruant of the Deuenes house why they Ringed not? hee answered, because they had no bells in their steeple, then qud the Queens man, may you very well sell a way your steeple, why so qud. Maister Hobson because quoth the other it standet emty and vnaunt to whom Maister Hobson replied againe,
we

of Old Hobson.

we may better sell a waye our pulpet, for these
twelue monthes was there neuer a sermon in
the same and it rather stands empty and vacant
after this the parson of the church preached eue-
ry Sunday following.



Of a Beggars answer to Maister Hobson.



Poore begger man, that was
foule, blacke, and loathsome to be-
hold, came on a time to Maister
Hobson as he walked in Poore
fields, and asked something of
him for an almes, to whom Ma-
ster Hobson said, I prethee good fellow get thee
from me, for thou lookst as thou camst lately out
of hell. the poore begger man perceiving, hee
would give him nothing, answered forsooth.
Sir, you say true, for I came lately out of Hell
indeed, why didst not thou tarry there still quoth
maister Hobson, nay Sir quoth the begger, there
is no Roome for such begger men as I am, for
all is kept for such gentlemen Citizens as you
be. This wittie and were called Maister Hobson to
give the poore man a tealer.

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How long Maister Hobsons Daughter mourned for her husbands death



Maister Hobson had a daughter which was a very faire & young woman, the which for her husband that laye a dying, made great sorrow and lamentation, and would not bee comforted by any persuasions, wherefore her father came to her and sayd, Daughter leaue of your mourning, for if God take away your husband: I will speedily prouide you a nother of as great a welth & credit as he is now of, and farre more young and lusty, but yet for all this would shee not leaue mourning, and grew greatly displeased that her father made any motion of another husband, protesting that she would neuer marry more. But now marke the variable minds of women, her husband was no longer dead and buried, the charges of his buriall paid for, and shee with her friends set at supper to comfort her, betwene talking and weeping, she whispered her father in the eare and said, Father where is the same man, that ye said should be my husband thus may you see how long Maister Hobson, the nature of women kind, & how long they may lie for their husbands after they be dead: these words made the young woman neuer after to aske her father for a husband.

of Old Hobson.

How maister Hobson caused his
man to set vp a signe.



Maister Hobson hauing one of his
Prentices new come out of his
time and being made a free man
of London, desired to set vp for
him self, so taking a house not far
from Saint Laurence lane, fur-
nished it with store of ware, & set the signe of the
Mayden head: hard by was a very rich man of
the same trade, had the same signe, and reported
in euery place where he came, that þe yong man
had set vp þe same signe that he had, onely to get a
way his customers & darly vexed the yong man
therewithall, who being greued in mind, made
it knowne to Maister Hobson his late maister
who comming to the rich man said, I maruell
Sir (quoth Maister Hobson) why you wrong
my man so much as to say he seeketh to get a-
way yout customers, maye so he doth (quoth the
other) for he hath set vp a signe called the mai-
den head as mine is, that is not so (replied Ma-
ster Hobson,) for his is the widdoes head, and no
mayden head, therfore you do him great wrong:
the rich man hereupon seing himselfe requited
with mocks, rested satisfied, and neuer after that
enuied Maister Hobsons man, but let him liue
quietly.

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Of maister Hobsons leſt of a louſe
and a flea.



Don a time Maister Hobſon go-
ing to my Lord Maiors to din-
ner amongſt the liuery of his
company, and being waited on
by one of his pzentices: the ſaid
pzentife ſpied a louſe creeping
vpon the ſide of his gowne and tooke it off: mai-
ſter Hobſon eſpying him to doe ſome thing in ſe-
cret, aſked what it was: the fellow being aſha-
med, was loath to tell him, but being impo-
tuned by his maister ſaid it was a louſe: oh (qd.
Maister Hobſon) this is good lucke: for it ſhew-
eth me to be a man, for this kind of vermine
chiefly breedeth on mankind, and there-vpon
gaue ſixe ſhillings to his man for his labour:
another of his Pzentifes being a pickthank-
knaue and hauing heard that his fellow had ſixe
ſhillings giuen him for taking a louſe from of
his maister (hauing his gowne likewise on) and
made as though he tooke a flea from the ſame, &
conuayed it priuily away, but when maister
Hobſon conſtrayned him to tell what it was,
with much diſſembling ſhamelaſhnes he ſaid it
was a flea: Maister Hobſon perceiving his diſ-
ſimulation ſaid to him, what doſt thou make mee
a dogge: for fleas be moſt commonly bread vpon
dogs: and ſo the ſixe ſhillings he looked for
he

of Ould Hobson.

he had given quete ne stripes: for quoth maister Hobson, there is great difference betweene one that doth a thing with a good mind, and him that doth a thing by dissimulation

How one of Maister Hobsons men quired him with a merry Iest.



Maister Hobson had a servant that hee had long before made a freeman and was still at maister Hobsons commaundment & did him much good seruite, wherefore vpon a time hee came vnto his maister and said, Sir, I haue done your seruice long time iust and truly, wherefore I pray you bestowe some thing vpon mee to begin the world with all, fellow, quoth maister Hobson thou sayst true, & hereon haue I thought many times to doe a good turne, now will I tell thee what thou shalt doe, I must shortly ride to Bris-towe faire, and if thou wilt beare my charges thether, I will giue thee such a thing, as shall be worth to thee a hundred pounds: I am content (quoth the fellowe) so all the way as hee Road, his man bore his charges, & paid for all things dewly, till they came to their last lodging and there after supper he came to his maister & said: Sir, I haue borne your charges as you commanded me, now I pray you let me know what the thing is that will be worth to me, a hundred pounds

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pounds: did I promise thee such a thing (quoth his maister) you did (quoth the fellow,) shew it me is wrighting (quoth his maister) I haue none (qd. the fellow) then thou art like to haue nothing (quoth his maister) and learne this of me, when so euer thou makest a bargaine with a man, looke that thou take a wrighting for thy security, and be wel aduised how thou giuest thy bond to any man, this thing hath benefitted me in my time a hundred pounds, and so may it likewise do thee: Thus when the poore fellow saw there was no remedy, he held him selfe content, and all that night pondred in his mind how to grow quittance with his maister. So on the morrow whē his maister had dispatched his buisines in the towne & was set forward back again towards London, he tarried a litle behind to recon with the hostes where he lay, and of her he borrowed as much money, on his maisters cloke as came to all the charges that they spent by the way: Maister Hobson had not ridden past two miles but that it begon to raine, wherupon he called for his cloke of another seruāt that rode by, who said that it was behind with his fellow, who had it with him: so they tooke shelter vnder a tree, till he ouer tooke them. When he was come, maister Hobson most angerly, sayd: thou knaue why comst not thou away with my cloke: Sir and please you (quoth the poore fellow) I haue layd it to pawne for your charges all the way

of Ould Hobson.

way: why knaue quoth maister Hobson, didest not thou promise to beare my charges to Brit-towe: did I quoth the fellow: yes (quoth maister Hobson) that thou didest, shew me a wrighting then therefore (said the fellow) whereunto Maister Hobson (seeing him selfe so cunningly over-reached) answered but litle.

Of Maister Hobsons riding to
Sturbrige faire.



Maister Hobson on a time in company of one of his neighbors roade from London towards Sturbrige faire, so the first night of there iorny they lodged at Ware in an Inne where great store of Company was, and in the morning when euery man made him ready to ride, and some were on horsebacke setting forward, the Cittizen his neighbour found him sitting at the Inne gate booted and spurred in a browne studdy, to whome hee saide, for name Maister Hobson why sitte you heere, why doe you not make your selfe redy to horsebacke, that we may set forward with company? Maister Hobson replied in this manner, I tarry (quoth he) for a good cause: for what cause quoth his neighbour: mary quoth Maister Hobson here be so many horses, that I cannot tell which

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is mine owne, and I know well, when every man is ridden and gone the horse that remaineth behind, must needs be mine.

How Maister Hobson found a farmers purse.



THere was a certaine farmer that lost forty pounds betwixt Cambridg and Londō, and being so great a summe, he made proclamation in all market Townes thereabouts, that who so ever had found forty and five pounds, should haue the five pounds for his labour for finding it, and therefore he put in the five pound more the was lost, it was Maister Hobsons fortune to find the same some of forty pounds. and brought the same to the baylife of Ware & required the five pounds for his paines as it was proclaymed: when the country farmer vnderstood this, and that he must needs pay five pounds for the finding, he sayd that there was in the purse five and forty pounds, and so would hee haue his owne mony and five pounds ouer, so long they stroue that the matter was brought before a Justice of peace which was then one Maister Fleetwood, who after was Recorder of London: but when Maister Fleetwood, vnderstood by the baylife, that the proclamation was made for a purse of five

of Ould Hobson,

five and forty pound, he demanded where it was
here quoth the baylie, and gaue it him, is it iust
forty pound said Maister Fleete Wood, yea truly
(quoth the bayleife): here maister Hobson, sayd
Ma. Fleerwood, take you this mony for it is your
owne, and if you chance to find a purse of five
and forty pound bring it to this honest farmer,
that is mine quoth the farmer for I lost iust forty
pound, you speake to late (quoth maister Fleete-
wood) thus the farmer lost the mony, and maister
Hobson had it according to iustice.



How Maister Hobson was a Iudge
betwixt two women.




Here dwelled not farre from
Maister Hobson, two very
ancient women the youn-
gest of them both, was a
boue three-score yeares of
age, and vppon a time sit-
ting at the sauetne together,
they grew at variencie which of them should be
the youngest, (as women indeede desier to bee
accomplished

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accounted younger then they be, in such manner that they layd a good supper, of the valew of twenty shillings, for the truth thereof, and Maister Hobson they agreed vpon to be their Judge of the difference: so after Maister Hobson had knowledge thereof, the one, came to him, and as a present gaue him a very faire pidgion pre, worth some five shillings desiring him to passe the bardet of her side: within a while after the other came, and gaue maister Hobson a very faire grayhound, which kind of dogges he much delighted in: praying him likewise to be fauorable on her side wherefore hee gaue indgment that the woman that gaue him the grayhound was the yonger, and so she wonn the supper of twenty shillings which she perceiuing, came to him and sayd (Sir, I gaue you a pidgion pie, and you promised the berdit should goe on my side. To whome maister Hobson said, of a truth good woman, there came a grayhound into my house, and ate vp the pidgion pye, and so by that meanes I quite forgot thee.

Of the pride of Maister Hobsons wife.

 Maister Hobsons wife carrying something a stately mind, and delighting in braue apprell, vpon a time walking abroad with other women her neighbours, they espied a payre of silke

of Ould Hobson.

silke stockings vpon her legges and desiring the like, neuer let their husbands to liue in quiet after, til they had silke stockings of the same fashion: so within a weeke or two following, their husbandes came complayning to maister Hobson and said, Sir, (quoth one of them) the sufferance of your wiues pride, hath spoiled all ours, for since she hath worne silke stockings, our wiues haue growne so importunate, that they must needs haue the like, and you are the cheifest cause in suffering her to weare the same: Oh my good neighbours, (qd. M^r Hobson) I haue great cause in doing so and it bringes me much quietnes, as how (qd. one of them) may thus (neighboures) for seeing I cannot please her aboue the knee, I must needs please her belowe the knee, and the only thing to please a woman is to let her haue her will.

Of Maister Hobsons Rewarding a Poet for a bookes dedication.



Vpon a new yeares day Maister Hobson sitting at dinner in a Poets company, or one as you may tearme him a writer of histories, there came a poore man and presented him a cople of oranges, which hee kindly tooke as a new yeares giift, and gaue the poore man for the same, an angell of gould, and therevpon gaue it his wife

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to lay it by among other Jewells, considering that it had like wise cost him an angel, the which he did, the Poet sitting by and marking the bounty of Ma. Hobson for so small a matter, he went home and deuised a booke containing forty sheets of paper which was halfe a yeare in writing, and came and gaue it to Maister Hobson in dedication, and thought in his mind, that he in recompencing the poore man so much for an oyringe would yeeld far more recompence for his booke, being so long in studying. Maister Hobson tooke the Poets booke thankfully, and perusing he did it onely for his bounty he wed for the oyring given him: willed his wife to fetch the said oyring, which he gaue to the Poet, being then almost rotten, saying, here is a Jewell which cost me a thousand times the worth in gould, therefore I thinke thou art well satisfied for thy bookes dedication: the poet seeing this, went his way all a thanked.

How Maister Hobson gaue one of his seruants
the halfe of a blind mans benefite.



Maister Hobson being still very good to poore and most bountyfull to aged people, there came to him usually twice or thrice a weeke a silly poore old blinde man to sing vnder his window, for the which he continually gaue him twelue

of Ould Hobson.

pence a time. Maister Hobson hauing one of his seruants to chooſe and withall to couit- out that he would ſuffer the blind man to come no more vnles he ſhould haue his benefit: the which the blind ſinging man was forced to giue, rather then to loſe all: after twice or thrice par- ting ſhares, Maister Hobson had there of intelli- gence, who conſulting with the blind man, ſer- ued his ſeruant in this manner. ſill he looked for haue whatſoener he got, ſo this at laſt was Maister Hobsons giſt, who gaue com- mandement that the blind man ſhould haue for his ſinging three ſcore Jerkes with a good whippe, and to be equally parted as the other giſts were, the which were preſently giuen: the blinde mans were but eaſie, but Maister Hobsons mans were very ſound ones, ſo that euery Jerke drew blood, after this he neuer ſought to diminish his maſters bounty.

How Maister Hobson found out the pye ſcaler.



In Christmas holy dayes when Ma. Hobsons wiſe had many pyes in the oven, one of his ſer- uants had ſtole one of them out: & at the taverne had merrie eatē it, it fortuud that ſame day, ſome of his friends dined with him, & one of the

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best pyes were missing, the stealer whereof, at after dinner he found out in this manner: he caled all his seruants in friendly sort together into the hall, and caused each of them to drinke one to another both wine, ale, and beere till the were all drunke, then caused hee a table to be furnished with very good cheare, whereat hee likewise pleased them, being set all together, he said, why sit you not downe fellowes, we be set allredy quoth they: nay quoth Maister Hobson he that stole the pye is not set yet, yes that I doe (quoth he that stole it) (by which meanes he knew what was become of the pye, for the poore fellow being drunke could not keepe his owne secretts).

Of Maister Hobson and a Doctor of Phisicke.



Don a time when Maister Hobson lay sicke, and in very great payne, there came vnto him a Doctor of Phisicke, that told him he could not escape but must needs die of that sickness, Maister Hobson a while after, not by the Doctors helpe, but by the will of God, recovered, and was whole of his disease, yet was he very lowe, and bare brought, and as he walked forth on a day, he met the said Doctor which doubting whether it were the sicke man or no, sayd (are not you Sir the man called maister

of Ould Hobson.

ster Hobson? yes trewly (quoth he) are you alive
or dead sayd the Doctor, I am dead quoth Mai-
ster Hobson, what doe you here then sayde the
Doctor, I am here quoth Maister Hobson, be-
cause I haue experience in many earthly things
and God hath sent me to the world againe, with
a commandement to take vp all phisitions that
I can get and send them thether to him, which
saying made Maister Doctor as pale as ashes
for feare, Maister Hobson seing this sayd vnto
him, feare not Maister Doctor though I said
all phisitions, for you are none, and there is no
man that hath witte will take you for one: ther-
fore you are not in my charge: farewell

How maister Hobson answered a Popish Fryer.

In the reigne of Queene Mary,
when this land was blinded
with superation, there was a
Popish fryer that made an ora-
cion in the charterhouse yard,
where many formes were pla-
ced full of people, to here the same oration, a
mongst which number sat Maister Hobson,
which fryer much extolling him that was then
Pope of Rome, comparing him to Saint Peter,
for in degree he names him about all p^r holy fa-
thers in time past as Doctors, matters, Pro-
phets, yea and aboue more then Prophets, Iohn
Baptist, then in what high place sayd the fryer

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shall we place this good man, what place I say
is fit for him or where shall he sit. Master Hob-
son hearing him speake so prophantly and sitting
amongst the Audiance, start vp and sayd if thou
canst find no other, then set him here in my place,
for I am weary, and so went his way.

How Master Hobson answered musicians.



Don a time Master Hobson ly-
ing in saint Albones, there came
certaine musicians to play at his
chamber doore, to the intent as
they filled his ears with their
musicke, he should fill their purses
with mony: where vpon he had one of the ser-
uants of the Inne (that waited vpon him) to goe
and tell them, that hee could not then indure to
heare their musicke for he mourned for the death
of his mother, so the musicians disapoynted of
their purpose went sadly all a way. The fellow
heard him speake of mourning, asked him how
long agoe it is since he buried his mother, crue-
ly (quoth master Hobson,) it is now very neare
forty yeares agoe, the fellow vnderstanding his
subtiley, and how wittily he sent a way the mu-
sicians: laughed very hartely.

Of
the
fellow
that
waited
vpon
him

of Ould Hobson.

Of Master Hobson teaching his man to vse money.



After Hobson had a seruant so conetous, and withall so simple witted, that all the money he could gather together, he hid in the ground, of the which Master Hobson hauing some intelligence fell a coniuering for it in this maner, with a good wand he so belabored my yong man, that he presently reuealed where it lay: the which summe of money master Hobson tooke quite away, all sauing a smale summe, the which the poore fellow put to so good a vse, in buying and selling, that in short time he greatly increased it: when master Hobson vnderstood what he had done, and what good vse he put his money too, sayd, Sirra, you can tell how to vse money, and learne to make profit thereof: I will restore to thee all againe and and so he did, which made the fellow euer after a good husband.

Of Master Hobsons sore eyes & his answer to phisitions



Upon a time, when master Hobson had sore eyes, there came a certaine phisition to him, thinking to haue some recompence for his counsell, warning him that he should in any case forbear drinkeing, or els by the same losse his eyes, to whom Master Hobson sayde, it is much more pleasure

The pleasant Conceits

pleasure for me to loose my eyes with drinking
then to keepe them for worms to eat them out:
another time a phisition came to maister Hobson
and said, Sir you looke well, and greene at no-
thing, and haue a healthfull countenance, true
(quoth maister Hobson) for I haue not to doe
with any phisitions, nor with phisicke: to
whom he replied. Sir said he you haue no cause
to blame the phisition, for his phisicke neuer did
you hurt, thou saist true quoth maister Hobson,
for if I had proued phisicke, I had not bene
now here alive: another phisition, came to him
on a time and said, Sir you be a very old man,
(very true quoth maister Hobson,) for thou wert
neuer my phisition, such maner of checks and
floutes would he stil giue to them that spoke
to him of phisicke, for in all his life hee neuer
tooke any.

Of Master Hobsons Iest of the signe of Saint Christopher.



Maister Hobson, and another of
his neighbours on a time wal-
king to Southwarke faire, by
chance drunke in a house, which
had the signe of Sa. Christopher,
of the which signe the good man
of the house gaue this commendation, Saint
Christopher (quoth he when hee liued vpon the
earth

earth bore the greatest burden that ever was,
 which was this, he bore Christ over a river, nay
 there was one (quoth maister Hobson,) that bore
 a greater burden, who was that (quoth the in-
 keeper, may quoth Maister Hobson, the ass that
 bore both him and his mother: so was the
 Anne-keeper called ass by craft. After this tal-
 king merely together, the aforesaid Anne-keeper
 being a little whittled with drinke & his head so
 giddy that he fell into the fire, people standing by
 ran sodainely and tooke him up, oh let him alone
 (quoth Maister Hobson,) a man may doe what he
 will in his owne house, and he where so ever he
 listeth, the man having little hurt, with this
 sight grew immediately sober, and after forced
 Maister Hobson and his neighbour so mightely,
 that crossing over London bridge being very
 late ranne against one of the cheane posts, at
 which Maister Hobson thinking it to bee some
 man that had tussled him, drew out his bodgion
 dagger and thrust it up into the very hilt in-
 to the hollow post, where upon verely hee had
 thought he had kil'd some man: so running away
 was taken by the watch, and so all the Jest was
 discovered.

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Of maister Hobsons answere to a messenger
of the Lord Maiors.



Vpon a time Ma. Hobson had
arrested one of my L. Maiors
kinsmen for a certaine det o-
wing him, and being in the
counter my Lord Maior sent
one of his officers for to in-
treat Maister Hobson to be
sauiorable to his kinsman, telling a long tale, and
to little purpose, whome maister Hobson answere-
d in this manner, my friend quoth he) what
thou saydst in the beginning I doe not like of:
and what was in the middle, I doe not well
remember, and for thy conelution, I vnderstand
it not: and this was all the fauour maister
Hobson shewed to my Lord Maiors kinsman.

How Maister Hobson bid an Alderman to diner,



His maister Hobson on a time
had a seruant that was ouer
full of words, and too much
talkatiue, being offended there-
with gaue him still in charge,
to say nothing, and to answer
to that hee was demaunded
and no more: so vpon a day maister Hobson made
a great diner, and sent his said seruant some two
Dayes

of Ould Hobson.

dayes, before to inuite an Alderman of London
there-vnto, so vpon the day when dinner time
came, all the guests staid for the said Alder-
mans comming till two of the clocke, and so at
last maister Hobson, sayd vnto his seruant: didst
thou bid maister Alderman to dinner? yea truly
(said he,) why cometh he not then? (quoth mai-
ster Hobson) mary (quoth the fellow) he said hee
could not: why couldest thou not me so quoth
maister Hobson? because quoth the fellow, you
did not aske me? here-vpon (though long first)
they went all to dinner, and being mery together
drinking of wine there came in a certaine rus-
sen and stole one of the fairest silluer cupps away
the which the fellow seing, said neuer a word
but let him goe, which when maister Hobson
missed, he demanded of his seruant where it was
Sir (quoth the fellow,) a theefe came in and
stole it a way: why didst not thou stay him (qd.
maister Hobson?) mary sir, (quoth he) because
he asked no question of me, after this, maister
Hobson noting the simplenes of his seruant let
him haue his tounge at free liberty.

How maister Hobson said he was not at home.

How
maister Hobson said he was not at home.

The pleasant Conceits

How Maister Hobson grew out of love
with an Image.



In the reaign of Queene Mary, when great superstition was be-
sed in England, as creeping to the
crosse, worshipping of Images
and such like, it was Maister
Hobsons chaunce amongst other
people to be in the Church, and kneeling to an
Image to pray, as it was then bled, the same
Image by some mishapp fell downe vpon Mai-
ster Hobson and broke his head, vpon which oc-
cassiō he came not thether in halfe an yere after
but at length by the procurement of his neigh-
bours he came to the Church againe, and be-
cause he saw his neighbours kneele before the
same Image, he kneeled downe likewise, and
said thus, wel I may cap, and kneele to thee, but
thou shalt neuer haue my heart againe so long
as I liue: meaning for the broken head it had
giuen him.

How Maister Hobson said he was not at home.



In a time Maister Hobson vpon some
ocation came to Maister Fleete woods
house to speake with him, being then
new chosen the recorder of London,
and asked one of his men if he were within and
he

of Ould Hobson,

he said he was not at home, but maister Hobson
perceiuing that his maister bad him say so, and
that he was within not being willing (at
that time) to be spoken withall, for that time
desembling the matter he went his way. within
a few dayes after it was Maister Fleete-woods
chaunce, to come to Maister Hobsons, knock-
ing at the doze, asked if he were within? maister
Hobson hearing, and knowing how he was de-
nyed maister Fleete-woods speach before time,
speake himselfe aloud, and said, hee was not at
home, Then sayd maister Fleete-wood, what ma-
ster Hobson, thinke you that I knowe not your
voyce, where-vnto maister Hobson answered
and sayd, now maister Fleete-wood, am I quit
with you: for when I came to speake with you,
I beleeued your man that said, you were not at
home, and now you will not beleue mine
owne selfe, and this was the mery
conference betwixt these two
merry gentlemen,

FINIS.

Collected together by,
R. JOHNSON.

